

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Amend page 4, at the paragraph at lines 12-15 as follows:

The feed stream Ia generally contains from 55 to 85% by weight of formaldehyde, from 15 to 35% by weight of water and from ~~1.0 to 30%~~ 3 to 20% by weight of trioxane. This stream Ia is separated into a stream II which is preferably drawn off at the top of the column, and a stream III which is preferably drawn off at the bottom of the column.